

NOTEWORTHY COLLECTION

CALIFORNIA

TAXUS BREVIFOLIA Nutt. (TAXACEAE).—Tuolumne Co., Mi Wok Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest, along Basin Creek below the crossing of Forest Road 1N04, UTM NAD 1983 zone 10N 4208683 751056, T2N R17E Sec31 NENE, the portion of the stand on Forest Service land has been mapped as 8.9 acres and has approximately 200 trees, the largest tree measured was 12" dbh., most of the larger trees had multiple stems, the stand also extends to section 30 SE and, on private land, into section 32 NWNW, old growth mixed conifer forest on a north aspect at 3560 ft elev, growing on a granitic, highly weathered Holland soil derived from Mesozoic granitic rocks, 18 March 2009, *Jonathan Day s.n.* (UC1965998, UC1965999). This stand was first noted by Hans Bayer in 1992 and was mapped by Kathy Aldrich around 1995.

Previous knowledge. Prior to this collection, *T. brevifolia* was thought to reach its southern limit in the Sierra at Calaveras Big Trees State Park in Calaveras County (Rundel 1968). Rundel ruled out the reports from Yosemite and Tulare Counties including an 1874 specimen labeled Yosemite Valley (Mariposa County, *Lemmon s.n.*). This species was not included in an illustrated flora of Yosemite National Park (Botti 2001) and no other recent reports have surfaced.

As follow-up on the Lemmon collection, Jonathan Day, Kate Day, and Margaret Willits checked two of the most likely areas in Yosemite Valley for this species on 13 March 2009. One additional likely area was not surveyed due to rockslide danger. We did not find *T. brevifolia*.

There is a possibility of *T. brevifolia* occurring in the Merced Canyon below Yosemite. Brandegee (1891, pp. 160) reported "The yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) grows near the water in the cañon of the Merced." and

"Neither this tree [*Torreya* Arn.] nor the last [*Taxus* L.] quite reaches the valley." This information was not considered by Rundel (1968).

Significance. This is the first collection from Tuolumne County. It is also the southernmost extant stand known in the Sierra. This collection is approximately 34 km SSE of the North Grove, Calaveras Big Trees, the previous limit.

This species is on the watchlist for the Stanislaus National Forest and would be addressed and considered in the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process.

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LITERATURE CITED

- BOTTI, S. J. 2001. An illustrated flora of Yosemite National Park. Yosemite Association, El Portal, CA.
BRANDEGEE, K. 1891. The flora of Yosemite. *Zoë* 2:155–167.
RUNDEL, P. W. 1968. The southern limit of *Taxus brevifolia* in the Sierra Nevada. *Madroño* 19:300.